



Federal Transit
Administration

Livable



Orlando Park and Play Garage/Child Care Center
Orlando, Florida



Ground Transportation Center Cedar Rapids, Iowa



Greater Cleveland Passenger Accessway Cleveland, Ohio



Health Station at Roxbury Crossing
Boston, Massachusetts

Site Plan for BART Fruitvale Station Oakland, California

Communities Initiative

BACKGROUND

The technology advances of the 20th century have brought instant communication and increased ability to traverse short and long distances. These advances, together with the increase in automobile ownership and the construction of extensive roadway networks, have created urban sprawl, adverse environmental effects and the isolation of many individuals from their communities. As this century closes, transportation options have become increasingly limited for many in our communities who are unable to drive, prefer not to drive or lack an automobile. Together, urban sprawl that forces increasingly longer trips and traffic congestion are diminishing the quality of life and reducing the effectiveness of the automobile as a transportation mode. These negative factors have created renewed interest in compact communities with user-friendly transit linked to related development.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is launching the Livable Communities Initiative to demonstrate the transit contribution toward improving the quality of life in communities through an active and participatory planning process which will result in transit facilities that are customer friendly and community-oriented and will promote local land use and transportation policies supportive of transit.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Initiative are to improve mobility and the quality of services available to residents of neighborhoods by:

- strengthening the link between transit planning and community planning, including land use policies and urban design supporting the use of transit and ultimately providing physical assets that better meet community needs
- stimulating increased participation by community organizations and residents, minority and low-income residents, small and minority businesses, persons with disabilities and the elderly in the planning and design process
- coordinating commercial and social service program development and activities to increase employment opportunities, improve neighborhoods, and promote the investment in and use of transit and other pedestrian-oriented transportation facilities and services
- serving as the transportation component of Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) projects as appropriate.

CHARACTERISTICS OF LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Characteristics of Livable Communities include:

- full community participation in the decision-making process by residents, neighborhood organizations and the business community including small and minority businesses
- well planned and designed neighborhoods where housing, schools and parks are within easy walking distance of user-friendly transit and link residents to job opportunities and social services
- transit, pedestrian and bicycle access that is compatible with land use, zoning and urban design to reduce dependence on the automobile
- mixed-use neighborhoods that complement residential areas with commercial, recreational, educational, health and other social services
- transit services and facilities which provide safety, security and accessibility for all passengers, including disabled persons and elderly members of the community
- sound environmental practices including careful parking and traffic management techniques to reduce auto trips, conserve space, encourage green areas, avoid gridlock and improve air quality.

ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Eligible recipients are transit operators, metropolitan planning organizations, city and county governments, states, planning agencies and other public bodies with the authority to plan or construct transit projects. Non-profit, community and civic organizations are encouraged to participate in project planning and development as partners with eligible recipients.

Eligible project planning activities include: 1) the preparation of implementation plans and designs incorporating Livable Communities elements, 2) the assessment of environmental, social, economic, land use and urban design impacts of projects, 3) feasibility studies, 4) technical assistance, 5) participation by community organizations, and the business community, including small and minority owned businesses, and persons with disabilities, 6) the evaluation of best practices, and 7) the development of innovative urban design, land use and zoning practices. Metropolitan and other planning organizations that receive FTA planning funds are expected to incorporate Livable Communities elements into their regular planning work programs.

Eligible capital activities or capital project enhancements of demonstration projects include: 1) property acquisition, restoration or demolition of existing structures, site preparation, utilities, building foundations, walkways, and open space that are physically and functionally related to mass transportation facilities, 2) the purchase of buses, enhancements to transit stations, park-and-ride lots and transfer facilities incorporating community services such as day care, health care and public safety, 3) safety elements such as lighting, surveillance and community police and security services, 4) site design improvements including sidewalks, aerial walkways and bus access and kiss-and-ride facilities, 5) operational enhancements such as transit marketing and pass programs, customer information services, and advanced vehicle locating, dispatch and information systems.

STATUTORY BASIS AND FUNDING

The statutory basis for the Initiative is found at 49 U.S.C. Section 5309(a)(5) and (7) (formerly Sections 3(a)(1)(D) and (F) of the Federal Transit Act). These provisions authorize projects that 1) enhance the effectiveness of mass transportation projects to which they are physically or functionally related, and 2) provide non-vehicular, capital improvements in fixed-guideway corridors. The flexible funding provisions of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) strengthens the funding opportunities for transit investments that meet the needs of communities. The FTA Livable Communities Initiative is thus firmly grounded in law. The essential purpose of the Federal transit laws is not simply to fund the capital and operating costs of transit systems; more generally, the purpose is to improve the quality of life in urban and rural communities through the use of transit systems, recognizing them as the lifeblood of livable communities.

The sources of Federal funds for projects reflecting the Livable Communities Initiative principles are: the transit capital Discretionary Grant or Loan Program, the transit formula assistance Block Grants, the Planning and Research Program, the Planning and Design of Mass Transportation Facilities to Meet Special Needs of Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities, the rural transit assistance Formula Grant Program for Areas Other Than Urbanized Areas, the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. In addition, limited funding will be available for technical assistance and demonstration project implementation, planning, capital projects, model planning, urban design and community involvement techniques.

FTA Regional Offices

Potential applicants are encouraged to initially contact the FTA Regional Offices. The Regional Offices will work with potential applicants in developing project proposals and will seek Headquarters technical assistance and procedural guidance as needed. Information on the FTA Regional Offices is listed below:

Region/Address	Telephone No.	Region/Address	Telephone No.
Federal Transit Administration Region I Transportation Systems Center 55 Broadway, Suite 920 Cambridge, MA 02142-1093	(617) 494-2055	Federal Transit Administration Region VII 6301 Rockhill Road, Suite 303 Kansas, City, MO 64131-1117	(816) 523-0204
Federal Transit Administration Region II 26 Federal Plaza, Suite 2940 New York, NY 10278-0194	(212) 264-8162	Federal Transit Administration Region VIII 216 Sixteenth Street, Suite 650 Denver, CO 80202-5120	(303) 844-3242
Federal Transit Administration Region III 1760 Market Street, Suite 500 Philadelphia, PA 19103-4124	(215) 656-6900	Federal Transit Administration Region IX 211 Main Street, Suite 1160 San Francisco, CA 94105-1926	(415) 744-3133
Federal Transit Administration Region IV 1720 Peachtree Road, NW, Suite 400 Atlanta, GA 30309-2439	(404) 347-3948	Federal Transit Administration Region X Jackson Federal Building 915 Second Avenue, Suite 3142 Seattle, WA 98174-1002	(206) 220-7954
Federal Transit Administration Region V 55 E. Monroe Street, Suite 1415 Chicago, IL 60603-5704	(312) 353-2789	<i>"We are leading America with high-quality public transportation that ensures personal mobility and livable communities."</i> Gordon J. Linton Administrator Federal Transit Administration	
Federal Transit Administration Region VI 524 East Lamar Boulevard, Suite 175 Arlington, TX 76011-3900	(817) 334-3787		



U.S Department of
Transportation

Program Guidance

PROJECT SELECTION FACTORS

Threshold Factors. Threshold factors will include evidence that the project: 1) resulted from a community planning process and contains community endorsement, 2) increases access to jobs, educational opportunities, or social services, 3) incorporates community services or other transit and pedestrian-oriented mixed use developments, and 4) provides opportunities for small or disadvantaged business participation in the planning, design, and implementation phases of the project.

Rating Factors. In addition to the threshold factors, there are a number of specific measures worthy of consideration in developing projects. They are as follows: 1) evidence of community involvement in the planning, design and implementation of the project, 2) evidence that the transit project is a product of coordinated transit and community planning, 3) degree to which transit ridership is increased and single occupant automobile trips are reduced, 4) degree to which the project responds to community needs through the inclusion of community services and customer conveniences, 5) level of funding pledged by local and State agencies and other Federal programs, 6) degree to which the enhancements improve the physical environment of the community, including safety and security, 7) degree to which the project stimulates commercial and housing development around the subject transit facility, 8) degree to which the project generates jobs for unemployed community residents, 9) evidence of local ordinances reflecting supportive land use policies and business development initiatives, 10) market feasibility of the relevant project elements, and 11) reasonableness of the financial plan to cover the local share of the capital costs and long term operations and maintenance costs of the relevant project elements.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ELEMENTS

The project development elements to be considered when developing a Livable Communities project are:

- physical and functional relationship to transit must be evident
- community participation in the planning and design of the project
- coordination of the site functional plans, particularly in relationship to transit facility operation and maintenance procedures
- integrated design of transit with community service and customer convenience components
- environmental and other Federal cross-cutting requirements including American Disabilities Act, Davis Bacon, Buy America, third party contracting and 13(c) must be addressed
- the market and financial feasibility of the community services and customer conveniences should be evident
- applicable zoning and land use policies such as higher density considerations, mixed-use guidelines, parking management, and pedestrian/bicycle transit oriented design standards
- property leasing arrangements
- disposition of project real property
- inclusion in an approved Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Livable Communities Examples



GREATER CLEVELAND PASSENGER ACCESSWAY

The Cleveland Passenger Accessway is a vital element of the redevelopment of downtown Cleveland. The 1,050 foot accessway links the Tower City Center rapid transit station with the Gateway Sports Complex which contains a 42,000 seat stadium and a 21,000 seat arena. The passenger accessway includes a number of

ridership resulting from the use of this facility, RTA has added a large amount of additional service to accommodate event crowds.

4). Over 60% of Gateway Stadium attendees utilized the accessway for events, over 25% of the event crowds utilized the public transit system

customer conveniences.

1). Pedestrian walkway overlooks scenic Cuyahoga River, is climate controlled and contains closed circuit television cameras.
2). The heavy utilization of the Passenger Accessway has resulted in minimal traffic congestion on event days.

3). Due to the high volume of rapid transit

and a majority of the transit trips use the RTA's rapid transit system.

5). The community participated in planning and designing the facilities.

6). The facility is totally grade-separated so that users do not have to cross downtown arterials to gain access to the facility.

7). The project qualified for a Categorical Exclusion from Environmental Assessment.

8). Market and financial feasibility studies were conducted by RTA and its consultants to estimate passenger utilization, flow-rates and to determine the size of the accessway.

9). Project financing occurred in the form of an 80% grant from CMAQ funds under ISTEA flexible funding. Private sector financed 100% of conceptual design, 50% of preliminary engineering and provided in-kind contributions valued at nearly \$2.0 million toward the accessway.



CEDAR RAPIDS GROUND TRANSPORTATION CENTER

The Ground Transportation Center at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is a multi-use facility located in the downtown CBD. The Center was designed to centralize local and intercity bus transportation modes, as well as to provide convenient access for taxis and special services for the elderly and disabled.

- 1) The Center incorporates a split bus terminal with separate facilities for city buses and intercity buses.
- 2) Approximately 3,000 to 4,000 bus passengers use the Center daily.
- 3) Incorporated and integrated the designs of the bus terminals with other joint-development components.

- 4) Emphasizes strong relationships between the bus transit and pedestrian activities.
- 5) Pedestrian circulation design includes both internal and external walkways with multiple access points to transit terminals, office towers, and other buildings in the area.
- 6) Project conceptualization and planning involved developers, downtown businesses and city officials.
- 7) Numerous public hearings were held due to the projects proximity to a 100-year Flood Plain.
- 8) Iowa's Department of Natural Resources participated in the approval process.
- 9) An Environmental Assessment was conducted and found no significant impact.
- 10) Market and financial feasibility studies were conducted.
- 11) The Federal share of the total project cost was 80 % and included land acquisition.



ORLANDO PARK AND PLAY GARAGE CHILD CARE CENTER

The Orlando Park and Play Garage is a 515 parking space facility that incorporates a child care center, restaurant and branch offices of the City's Parking System.

- 1) The City provides free shuttle bus service to downtown employment centers.
- 2) The shuttle buses serve approximately 1,000 people daily from two parking garages which have a combined total of 1,127 parking spaces.
- 3) The project site was designated for community service development. Public hearings considered options and recommended a multi-use facility.

center, the Performing Arts Center and the parking garages.

- 4) The City incorporated a child care center component into the project.
- 5) The child care center design was integrated with the design of the parking garage.
- 6) Covered walkways connect the child care center, the Performing Arts Center and the parking garages.
- 7) For the purposes of environmental requirements, a categorical exclusion was issued.
- 8) The child care center was financed with funds from the city's parking revenues.
- 9) The City leased the child care center to a private operator. Fees are returned to the City's parking fund.
- 10) FTA funded 80 % of the parking garage costs and the costs of the land for the child care center.



HEALTH STATION AT ROXBURY CROSSING

The Whittier Street Neighborhood Health Center opened the Health Station at Roxbury Crossing at a Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) station. It is the first known health center to be located at a public transit terminal. The Health Station, located in the Roxbury section of Boston, provides very accessible health care, health promotion and health education services to an area with heavy pedestrian traffic.

- 1) Roxbury Crossing Station has approximately 3,000 passenger boardings daily and also serves as a bus stop for 10 bus lines.
- 2) The Health Station is located at street level adjacent to the entrance of the MBTA station.
- 3) An extensive community participation program was carried out in the planning and designs of all Orange Line stations.
- 4) The community recommended projects incorporating minimum parking, retail businesses, and community based services.
- 5) The Health Station leases 4,670 sq. feet of space from MBTA through a master leaser contracted by MBTA. The master leaser put in electrical services as part of the lease agreement.
- 6) As a notable spin-off, the master leaser is negotiating a lease at another Orange Line station for a "challenged adult" center.
- 7) The Health Station offers a range of health care services including maternal and child health care services.
- 8) FTA participated in the funding of the station.

Livable Communities

Initiative Activities

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- Livable Communities Initiative Program Description
- Livable Communities Initiative Brochure
- Planning Emphasis Area
- Community Involvement Guidance
- FTA Sections 3 & 9 Program Circulars
- Regional Conferences/ Workshops

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

- Best Practice Guidelines
- National Seminars
- Town Meetings
- On-Site Assistance
- Local Implementation Demonstrations
- Model Urban Design Standards
- Best Practices in Community Outreach
- Local Service Innovations

CAPITAL PROJECT DEMONSTRATIONS

- Federal Register Notice
- Selection of Projects
- Project Management

PROGRAM EVALUATION

- Development of Evaluation Methodology
- Assessment of Baseline Conditions
- Assessment of Post-operational Results

RELATED DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS

- Advanced Public Transit Systems
- Clean Air
- Job Links
- Innovative Financing
- Safety and Security
- Transit Accessibility
- Transit Ambassadors
- Turnkey (Design/Build) Delivery

CORE PROGRAM INSINUATION

- Planning Assistance Including Coordination with FHWA
- Discretionary Bus Program
- Formula Assistance Program
- New Starts Criteria
- Rail Modernization Program

